

Fall 8-15-2012

ENG 5005-001: Studies in Nineteenth-Century British Literature Home and Abroad

Dagni Bredesen
Eastern Illinois University

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**English 5005: Studies in Nineteenth-Century British Literature
Home and Abroad: Victorian Literary Geographies
Fall Semester 2012**

Dr. Dagni Bredesen

**Office Hours: Tue 11.30am -12.30pm or by appointment
Office Hours: Booth Library 1116 (Basement below North Entrance)
Email: dabredesen@ciu.edu Phone: 217-581-7051**

Course Description:

In the dominant literary genre of the nineteenth-century, the novel we find a range of paradoxes. On the one hand, the novel espouses domesticity; on the other, it also embraced an empire that circled the globe. Nineteenth-century Britain, itself, was the home of the great cosmopolis, London, and it also prized aspects of an insular, even provincial character and its rural country estates. This course examines these spatial binaries of public and private, country and city, metropole and empire, home and abroad as they are represented in some of the greatest as well as least remembered works of the Victorian era (mid-to-late 19th century). Rather than reinforcing a simple binary view, this course seeks to find imperial issues in domestic fiction, and the symbolism of hearth and home in the most exotic locales and plots. Subthemes include the creation (or at least development) of genres such as detective fiction and adventure “shockers.” While the course emphasizes a new historicist approach (that is, how do these literary works relate to and impact era in which they were created), it also suggests the ways Victorian novels inform our present age.

Assignments will include discussion leading; two short writing assignments and a final research-based presentation and paper.

The objectives of this course are: **1)** to extend your knowledge about one of the most interesting periods of British literature and culture—the Victorian era; **2)** to extend your skills in thinking, research, writing and presenting and thus further enable you to participate at an advanced level in the larger scholarly conversation.

Course Texts:

Bredesen, Dagni Ed. *The First Female Detectives: The Female Detective* (1864) and *Revelations of a Lady Detective* (1864)
Barrett Browning, Elizabeth. *Aurora Leigh* (1856)
Collins, Wilkie. *The Moonstone* (1868)
Dickens, Charles. *David Copperfield* (1850)
Doyle, Arthur Conan. *The Sign of Four* (1888)
Steinbach, Susie L. *Understanding the Victorians* (2012)
Summerscale, Kate. *The Suspicions of Mr. Whicher* (2008)
Woloch, Alex. *The One versus the Many* (2003)

Course Schedule: (Please note this schedule is provisional and subject to change).

Week One: 8/21

Intro to course

Week Two: 8/28 Please note that the assigned readings are listed under the class date that they will be discussed.

David Copperfield / Country and City
Woloch, Prologue and Introduction, “Characterization and Distribution.”

Steinbach, look at timeline skim intro, be prepared to discuss “A ‘Green and Pleasant Land’ of Cities and Slums”

Handouts: excerpts from Tennyson’s *The Princess* and Patmore’s *The Angel in the House*.

Week Three: 9/04

David Copperfield / Public and Private

Woloch, chapter one “Narrative Asymmetry in *Pride and Prejudice*”

Steinbach, chapter six “Born into the Lower-Upper-Middle Class”

Week Four: 9/11

David Copperfield: Home and Abroad

Woloch, chapter two “Making More of Minor Characters”

Steinbach, chapters four and six: “Wealth and Poverty, Growth and Slumps: The Economy.”

Week Five: SAVE the DATE September 20th: The Neff Poetry Reading will be held at 5pm Thursday, September 20th. I will be hosting a reception immediately afterwards at my home. You are all invited. More information will follow.

For Class 9/18

DUE: FIRST PAPER

Aurora Leigh : Angels in and out of the house.

Woloch, chapter three “Partings Welded Together: The Character-System in *Great Expectations*.”

Steinbach, chapter seven, “A Common Cause with All the Females in This Kingdom”: Gender.

Week Six: 9/25

Aurora Leigh: Artistic spaces.

Week Seven: 10/02

Aurora Leigh

The Suspicions of Mr. Whicher “Home Invasions, part I”

Week Eight: 10/09

The Suspicions of Mr. Whicher

The First Female Detectives: “Introduction,” and “Child Found Dead: Murder or No Murder” (FD)

Introduction to 19th century databases and archives

Week Nine: (10/16)

The First Female Detectives: “Unravelling Mystery” (FD) and “The Mysterious Countess” and “The Secret Band” (RLD)

Presentations: Findings from the Archives

Week Ten: (10/23)

The Moonstone The Center and the Periphery

Steinbach, chapter 3 “Ruling the World: Imperialism.”

DUE: Second Paper

Week Eleven: (10/30)

The Moonstone: Home Invasions, Part II

Week Twelve: (11/06)

The Moonstone

Week Thirteen: (11/13) Consultations on Final Research Paper
Kipling's "The Man Who Would be King"
DUE: Final Paper Abstracts

Week Fourteen: (11/27)
Doyle's *The Sign of Four*
Writing Circles Bring 3 pages of your paper to class

Week Fifteen: (12/04)
Pirkis' Loveday Brooke and Orzcy's Lady Molly of Scotland Yard
Presenting your introductions

Exam Week: (12/11) FINAL Research Papers DUE (15-20pp)